

the application, and shall be conducted as promptly as possible. Whether or not the position of the agency was substantially justified shall be determined on the basis of the administrative record, as a whole, which is made in the adversary adjudication for which fees and other expenses are sought.

(2) A request that the adjudicative officer order further proceedings under this section shall specifically identify the information sought or the disputed issues and shall explain why the additional proceedings are necessary to resolve the issues.

(g) *Decision.* The adjudicative officer shall serve an initial decision on the application within 60 days after completion of proceedings on the application. The decision shall include written findings and conclusions on the applicant's eligibility and status as a prevailing party, and an explanation of the reasons for any difference between the amount requested and the amount awarded. The decision shall also include, if at issue, findings on whether the agency's position was substantially justified, whether the applicant unduly protracted the proceedings, or whether special circumstances make an award unjust. If the applicant has sought an award against more than one agency, the decision shall allocate responsibility for payment of any award made among the agencies, and shall explain the reason for the allocation made.

(h) *Commission review.* Either the applicant or agency counsel may seek review of the initial decision on the fee application, or the Commission may decide to review the decision on its own initiative, in accordance with § 502.227 of this part. If neither the applicant nor agency counsel seeks review and the Commission does not take review on its own initiative, the initial decision on the application shall become a final decision of the Commission 30 days after it is issued. Whether to review a decision is a matter within the discretion of the Commission. If review is taken, the Commission will issue a final decision on the application or remand the application to the adjudicative officer for further proceedings.

(i) *Judicial review.* Judicial review of final Commission decisions on awards

may be sought as provided in 5 U.S.C. 504(c)(2).

(j) *Payment of award.* (1)(i) An applicant seeking payment of an award shall submit to the comptroller or other disbursing officer of the paying agency a copy of the Commission's final decision granting the award, accompanied by a certification that the applicant will not seek review of the decision in the United States courts.

(ii) The agency will pay the amount awarded to the applicant within 60 days.

(2) Where the Federal Maritime Commission is the paying agency, the application for payment of award shall be submitted to: Office of Budget and Financial Management, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573.

Subpart W—Compromise, Assessment, Mitigation, Settlement, and Collection of Civil Penalties

SOURCE: 49 FR 4418, Nov. 6, 1984, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 58 FR 27211, May 7, 1993.

§ 502.601 Purpose and scope.

The purpose of this subpart is to implement the statutory provisions of section 32 of the Shipping Act, 1916, section 19 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, section 13 of the Shipping Act of 1984, and sections 2(c) and 3(c) of Public Law 89-777 by establishing rules and regulations governing the compromise, assessment, settlement and collection of civil penalties arising under certain designated provisions of the Shipping Act, 1916, the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, the Intercoastal Shipping Act, 1933, the Shipping Act of 1984, Public Law 89-777, and/or any order, rule or regulation (except for procedural rules and regulations contained in this part) issued or made by the Commission in the exercise of its powers, duties and functions under those statutes.

§ 502.602 Definitions.

For the purposes of this subpart:

(a) *Assessment* means the imposition of a civil penalty by order of the Commission after a formal docketed proceeding.

(b) *Commission* means the Federal Maritime Commission.

(c) *Compromise* means the process whereby a civil penalty for a violation is agreed upon by the respondent and the Commission outside of a formal, docketed proceeding.

(d) *Mitigation* means the reduction, in whole or in part, of the amount of a civil penalty.

(e) *Person* includes individuals, corporations, partnerships, and associations existing under or authorized by the laws of the United States or of a foreign country.

(f) *Respondent* means any person charged with a violation.

(g) *Settlement* means the process whereby a civil penalty or other disposition of the case for a violation is agreed to in a formal, docketed proceeding instituted by order of the Commission.

(h) *Violation* includes any violation of sections 14 through 21 (except section 16 First and Third) of the Shipping Act, 1916; sections 19(6)(d), 19(7)(d) and 19(11) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920; section 2 of the Intercoastal Shipping Act, 1933; any provision of the Shipping Act of 1984; sections 2 and 3 of Public Law 89–777; and/or any order, rule or regulation (except for procedural rules and regulations contained in this part) issued or made by the Commission in the exercise of its powers, duties and functions under the Shipping Act, 1916, the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, the Intercoastal Shipping Act, 1933, the Shipping Act of 1984, or Public Law 89–777.

(i) Words in the plural form shall include the singular and vice versa; and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice versa. The terms “includes” and “including” do not exclude matters not listed but which are in the same general class. The word “and” includes “or”, except where specifically stated or where the context requires otherwise.

§ 502.603 Assessment of civil penalties: Procedure; criteria for determining amount; limitations; relation to compromise.

(a) *Procedure for assessment of penalty.* The Commission may assess a civil penalty only after notice and opportunity for hearing. Civil penalty assessment proceedings, including settlement negotiations, shall be governed by the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure in this part. All settlements must be approved by the Presiding Officer. The full text of any settlement must be included in the final order of the Commission.

(b) *Criteria for determining amount of penalty.* In determining the amount of any penalties assessed, the Commission shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation committed and the policies for deterrence and future compliance with the Commission’s rules and regulations and the applicable statutes. The Commission shall also consider the respondent’s degree of culpability, history of prior offenses, ability to pay and such other matters as justice requires.

(c) *Limitations; relation to compromise.* When the Commission, in its discretion, determines that policy, justice or other circumstances warrant, a civil penalty assessment proceeding may be instituted at any time for any violation which occurred within five years prior to the issuance of the order of investigation. Such proceeding may also be instituted at any time after the initiation of informal compromise procedures, except where a compromise agreement for the same violations under the compromise procedures has become effective under § 502.604(e).

§ 502.604 Compromise of penalties: Relation to assessment proceedings.

(a) *Scope.* Except in pending civil penalty assessment proceedings provided for in § 502.603, the Commission, when it has reason to believe a violation has occurred, may invoke the informal compromise procedures of this section.

(b) *Notice.* When the Commission considers it appropriate to afford an opportunity for the compromise of a civil penalty, it will, except when otherwise authorized by the Commission, or